

# Central Holmes teachers learn CPR



Sed Loman instructs Central Holmes Christian School participants on how to save a life while having fun. They are all now CPR certified. Standing: Sed Loman; kneeling (from left to right): Sheryll Murtagh, Melaine Melton, Cathy Murtagh, Kelly Killebrew, Joy Donald, Jill Killebrew and Amber McBride; seated (from left to right): Paula Collins, Melissa Brannon and Doralyn Killebrew.

# Political advertising available in the *Herald* for 2021 elections

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**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ALL CONTENT FOR ADS IS FRIDAY BY 5 P.M. FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEK'S PAPER.**



# Congressman Bennie Thompson announces FEMA offers aid for COVID related deaths

## Press Release

Thursday, March 25, United States Representative Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) announced the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency will begin providing financial assistance for funeral expenses incurred after Jan. 20, 2020 for deaths related to coronavirus (COVID-19) to help ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the pandemic.

To be eligible for COVID-19 funeral assistance, the policy states:

\* The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after Jan. 20, 2020 for a death attributed to COVID-19.

\* If multiple individuals contributed toward funeral expenses, they should apply under a single application as applicant and co-applicant. FEMA will also consider documentation from other individuals not listed as the

applicant and co-applicant who may have incurred funeral expenses as part of the registration for the deceased individual.

\* An applicant may apply for multiple deceased individuals.

\* The COVID-19-related death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.

§ This assistance is limited to a maximum financial amount of \$9,000 per funeral and a maximum of \$35,500 per application.

§ Funeral assistance is intended to assist with expenses for funeral services and interment or cremation.

In the coming weeks, a dedicated 800 number will be established to help individuals who apply. In the meantime, potential applicants are encouraged to start gathering the following documentation:

\* An official death certificate that attributes the death to COVID-19 and shows that the death occurred in the U.

S. The death certificate must indicate the death “may have been caused by” or “was likely the result of” COVID-19 or COVID-19 like symptoms. Similar phrases that indicate a high likelihood of COVID-19 are considered sufficient attribution.

\* Funeral expense documents (receipts, funeral home contract, etc.) that include the applicant’s name, the deceased individual’s name, the amount of funeral expenses, and the dates the funeral expenses were incurred.

\* Proof of funds received from other sources specifically for use toward funeral costs. Funeral assistance may not duplicate benefits received from burial or funeral insurance, financial assistance received from voluntary agencies, federal/state/local/tribal/territorial government programs or agencies, or other sources.

For more information visit <https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>.



## Wicker Fights to Prevent Federal Takeover of Elections

*Most provisions of S.1 opposed by large majorities of Americans*

This past week, I participated in a hearing on S.1, a Democrat-written bill that is misleadingly named the “For the People Act.” This partisan bill amounts to a federal takeover of state election laws, which would strip away vital security measures that protect our elections from fraud. Two days before this hearing, House Democrats considered a separate bill that would add Washington, D.C., as the nation’s 51st state, effectively giving Democrats two additional seats in the U.S. Senate. Both of these bills are shameful attempts by congressional Democrats to use their slim, temporary majorities to tilt the political playing field permanently in their favor.

Ordinarily, such extreme measures would be dead on arrival in the Senate because of the minority’s filibuster power, which requires 60 votes to pass most legislation. Regrettably, many Democrats today are pushing to abolish or weaken this consensus-building tool now that they have narrowly regained power. Many of these same Democrats, including Majority Leader Schumer, had previously urged Republicans to keep the filibuster in place while they were in the minority, but they have

now changed their tune. My Republican colleagues and I are doing everything possible to preserve the filibuster and prevent these liberal power grabs from succeeding.

### S.1 Would Make It Easier to Cheat in Elections

Democrats are saying S.1 would make voting easier, but its main effect would be to make cheating easier. For instance, it would forbid states from scrubbing voter rolls by removing the names of dead people and those who have moved away – a practice Democrats are calling “voter suppression.” It would ban voter ID requirements, which are popular nationwide and have passed in most states, including Democrat-run states like Connecticut and Rhode Island. It would force states to allow “ballot harvesting,” a shady practice whereby party operatives can deliver stacks of ballots to the polls without supervision. And it would require states to allow Election Day registration and universal mail-in voting, long after the pandemic is over.

Americans are coming out against this bill as more details become clear. A recent poll showed that 83 percent of Americans are concerned about ballot harvesting, 81 percent are concerned about Election Day registration

without photo ID, and 71 percent are concerned about universal mail-in voting – including half of all Democrats. Most Americans also oppose using their tax dollars to fund political campaigns, which S.1 would do as well. Even the left-wing ACLU recognizes this would violate the First Amendment rights of taxpayers and is opposing the bill.

### D.C. Statehood Would Be Unconstitutional

In a separate attempt to seize more power, Democrats are seeking to grant statehood to Washington, D.C., a move that would add two reliable Democrat seats to the Senate and one new vote to the House. This bill clashes head-on with the Constitution, which places D.C. under the exclusive authority of Congress. Most constitutional experts recognize that changing D.C.’s status would require a constitutional amendment. If Democrats ever passed this bill into law, years of litigation would follow.

### Filibuster Protects Against Partisan Abuses

Thomas Jefferson once wrote that “great innovations should not be forced on slender majorities.” With these bills, congressional Democrats are trying to force sweeping changes on our nation with the narrowest of majorities. These efforts show why it is so important to keep the filibuster, which has preserved the Senate as a consensus-building institution for generations. Democrats should not throw away this legacy for a cheap power grab.